

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06154 211956Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PA-03 PRS-01 H-03 SS-15 L-03 EB-11

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R 211840Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3318

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 6154

FOLLOWING MSG SENT PRIORITY ACTION USIA WASHDC, REPEATED FOR
YOUR INFORMATION:

P 211625Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 3427

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 6154

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

REF: FMS 27, AUG 10; 25, AUG 2; 22, JULY 6;
19, JUNE 19.

ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT LAST NIGHT DECREED THAT
FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES IN ARGENTINA CAN NO
LONGER DISSEMINATE ARGENTINE NEWS WITHIN
ARGENTINA. DECREE ALSO ORDERS THAT ARGENTINE
PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION CARRY AT LEAST
50 PER CENT ARGENTINE ITEMS EACH ISSUE OR
NEWSCAST.

DECREE SEVERELY CURTAILS OPERATIONS BOTH AP,
UPI BUREAUS HERE. UPI MOVES CONSIDERABLE VOLUME
ARGENTINE NEWS ON INTERIOR WIRE TO
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 06154 211956Z

NUMEROUS PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPERS, RADIO STATIONS,

AP ALSO FILES INTERIOR WIRE, BUT MOST MATERIAL IS REPEAT FROM ITS LATAM WIRE OUT OF NEW YORK. AP DOES NOT MAINTAIN INTERIOR COVERAGE STAFF LIKE UPI'S.

OTHER MAIN POINTS OF DECREE INCLUDE:

1) "FREEDOM OF THE PRESS MUST BE GUARANTEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AIMS OF THE STATE".

2) ALL NEWS AGENCIES, ARGENTINE AND FOREIGN MUST INDICATE IN LEAD THE SOURCE OF STORY AND SPECIFY AUTHORITIES, ORGANIZATIONS OR AGENCIES FROM WHICH INFORMATION PROVIDED.

3) USE OF MATERIAL MUST BE GIVEN PRIORITIES IN THIS ORDER: ARGENTINE NEWS, LATIN AMERICAN ITEMS AND INTERNATIONAL STORIES.

4) ALL FOREIGN IDIOMS MUST BE TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH AND NO FOREIGN WORDS CAN BE USED IN NEWS REPORTS.

5) REPORTS ON INTERNATIONAL EVENTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO CIRCULATE FREELY IN ARGENTINA, SUBJECT ONLY TO INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND ARGENTINE LAWS.

UPI BUREAU SAYS IT BEEN EXPECTING SUCH ACTION FOR MONTHS AND NOTED DECREE HAD BACKING OF RADICAL PARTY (UCR) AS WELL AS PERONISTS. ADDED THAT APPARENTLY ONLY A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT COULD ALTER SITUATION, AND THAT UPI WILL HAVE TO SHRINK OPERATIONS. AP SAYS IT STUDYING DECREE CAREFULLY, BUT SEES NO ALTERNATIVE TO CLOSING INTERIOR WIRE.

DECREE RECALLS ACTION OF PERON GOVERNMENT 1953 WHEN FOREIGN AGENCIES WERE ATTACKED
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PAGE 03 BUENOS 06154 211956Z

BY PERON FOR "SPREADING RUMORS AND SLANDER", FOLLOWED BY GOVERNMENT CUT OF ALL AGENCY TELETYPE CIRCUITS. ABOUT ONE MONTH LATER UP MANAGERS IN BA SIGNED "CONFESSION" OF LIBELOUS ACTIVITIES. SOON AFTER ALL FOREIGN CIRCUITS WERE RESTORED.
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